GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6280
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
DECLARATION OF BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER AS NATIONAL WATERWAYS
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to make Brahmaputra river navigable after declaring it a national waterways;

(b) the total amount spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(c) the total quantum of goods carried during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to develop inland water transport facilities of the river Barak through Bangladesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) After the declaration of Dhubri -Sadiya stretch of river Brahmaputra as National Waterway No.2, annual schemes of river conservancy works including bandalling, channel marking etc. have been executed on year to year basis, with a view to maintaining navigable channel. Pilotage service for IWT vessels have also been provided .For undertaking dredging work, one hydraulic surface dredger has been constructed.

(b) The total amount spend on river Brahmaputra by Inland Waterways Authority of India during the 9th Plan is Rs.25.66 Crores.Year wise expenditure made is as given below :

(Rs. in Crores)

1997-99	2.59	
1998-99	5.83	
1999-2001	3.22	
2000-2001	5.26	
2001-2002	8.76	(provisional)
Total	25.66	

(c) The total quantum of goods carried by the Government Sector on river Brahmaputra during the 9th Plan (1997 & 2002) was of the order of approximately 1.50 lakh tonnes

(d) River Brarak is not a national waterway. However, Techno Economic Feasibility study for development of Karimganj- Lakhipur sector of river Barak has been conducted. The declaration of this stretch of river Barak and subsequent development will depend on availability of resources. The river Barak is already connected with Haldia Port through Bangladesh waterways for which inland water transit and trade protocol between India and Bangladesh exists.